

REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed September 17, 2004. Claims 1, 3, 11, 12, 19, and 20 were rejected.

Claims 1-20 were originally presented. Claims 1, 3, 11, 12, 19, and 20 remain in the application. Claims 2, 4-10, and 13-18 were withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a nonelected species.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 11, 12, 19, and 20 (including independent claims 1, 11, and 19) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilcox (US 6,050,531). The following remarks will be directed to the originally presented independent claims, with the understanding that once an independent claim is allowable, all claims depending therefrom are allowable.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has credited the Wilcox '531 reference with structure that it simply does not have. The Applicant contacted the Examiner by telephone on December 14, 2004 in an attempt to clarify this rejection, and was instructed to present these concerns in a written response.

With reference to Figs. 13 and 15 or Figs. 14 and 16 of Wilcox '531, the Examiner stated that Wilcox '531 discloses a "ramp block having a first ramp surface; a release block (1205) moveably disposed *opposite* the ramp block, having a *second ramp surface opposite the first ramp surface*; [and] a cylindrical roller (1210) rollably disposed *between* the first and second ramp surfaces." Detailed Action, p. 3 (emphasis added). This statement is incorrect in several ways.

First, the Wilcox '531 reference does not disclose a release block that is *opposite* the ramp block. "Opposite" means "in a contrary position or direction." Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary, Unabridged, 1255 (Prentice Hall Press, 1983). Viewing the referenced figures, the release block 1205 is not disposed in a contrary position or direction to the ramp block 1222, but clearly *straddles* the ramp block. This is very different from the claimed arrangement. The present claims clearly state that the release block is *opposite* the ramp block.

Opposing blocks are a specific element of each of the independent claims of the present application, and Wilcox '531 lacks this element.

Second, the release block 1205 does not include a second ramp surface opposite the first ramp surface. The ramp block 1222 includes a first ramp surface 1265. However, the release block does not include any ramp surface at all, much less one that is in a contrary position or direction to the first ramp surface, or "opposite" as claimed by the Applicant.

Third, the cylindrical roller (1210) of Wilcox '531 is not rollably disposed between the first and second ramp surfaces. Since Wilcox '531 does not include a second ramp surface, the claimed configuration is simply not possible.

Because Wilcox '531 does not include these specific elements that are included in the Applicant's claims, this reference clearly does not anticipate the pending claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 11, and 19 are allowable over the cited art, and the remaining claims are allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim. The Applicant therefore urges the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

CONCLUSION

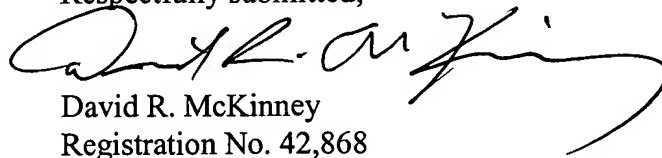
In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 3, 11, 12, 19, and 20 are now in condition for allowance. Moreover, because independent claims 1, 11, and 19 are generic, the Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 4-10, and 13-18 are therefore also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable generic claim. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that claims 1-20 be allowed and passed to issue.

If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call David R. McKinney at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

DATED this 15th day of Dec., 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David R. McKinney", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

David R. McKinney
Registration No. 42,868

THORPE NORTH & WESTERN, LLP
Customer No. 20,551
P.O. Box 1219
Sandy, Utah 84091-1219
Telephone: (801) 566-6633

H:\FILES\21000\21091\NP\Amend A.doc